



# Action Plan

Below is the Democratic Plan of Action to Promote Small Business and Entrepreneurship in Maine. It is a working plan that will be amended as we take it to the people who know the needs of business best, small business people.

## 1. Contain costs, reduce paperwork, and streamline the regulatory process

*Simplify the process and create a stable and predictable regulatory environment.*

- Reduce the cost of Worker's Compensation for small business.
- Give small business an equal footing in shaping the future of health insurance and health access for Maine citizens.
- Create a one-stop information source for small businesses.
- Establish a Business Court to expedite business-related litigation
- Establish "3-1-1" as a statewide business assistance line.
- Reduce paperwork requirements for companies.
- Require state agencies to combine and/or coordinate inspections wherever possible.
- Establish an internet-based centralized online application system for all state permitting.
- Establish a Small Business Advocate within state government to make sure government resources are coordinated on behalf of small business. This position would be created by realigning existing state resources.

## 2. Mobilize state resources on behalf of small business

*Fundamentally change the way government approaches small business support.*

- Increase small business access to Maine state contracts.
- Increase small business access to private contracts in Maine. Assist Maine's smaller businesses in procuring contracts with Maine's large corporations.
- Work with private sector brokers to close deals that benefit Maine's small businesses.
- Expand seed capital funds to better assist small businesses not currently captured by existing seed capital programs.
- Help repay loans for students who live and work in Maine, and students who graduate from entrepreneurship programs at community colleges.
- Provide targeted business assistance in strategic areas of high opportunity that build off of Maine's unique strengths such as tourism, agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and the creative economy.
- Audit all state business assistance services and require streamlining, coordination, and packaging of those services to enhance the delivery of state resources and expertise.
- Assist Maine's small businesses in cooperative purchasing.
- Continue to support the Maine Technology Institute, as a vehicle to foster new research and development within Maine's small businesses.

## 3. Create an environment that fosters small business growth in Maine

*Develop the interest, skills, and expertise Maine citizens need to be successful entrepreneurs.*

- Build a culture of entrepreneurship that grows Maine from within.
- Create a stable and predictable tax environment.
- Reduce the capital gains tax for investments and re-investments to encourage investment in Maine's small businesses.
- Establish an entrepreneurial curriculum at each community college, including an apprenticeship program and entrepreneurial centers at each of Maine's seven community colleges to encourage students and assist them in going into business for themselves.
- Boost high-tech job creation through increased investment in research and development to higher education.